GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4356
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
INDIA `S PARTICIPATION IN TAP GAS PIPELINE PROJECT
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Munshiram Shri ;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is exploring the possibilities of joining the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Gas Pipeline Project in view of uncertainty of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline as reported in Dainik Jagran dated November 27, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): There is no uncertainty in regard to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. The Government is discussing the details of the project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. Two separate Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs), viz., India - Pakistan JWG and India - Iran Special JWG (SJWG), have been constituted for this purpose. The meetings of these Working Groups are being held regularly and discussions are progressing satisfactorily.

India`s participation in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Gas Pipeline Project is not linked in any way to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. The Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been examining for some time the setting up of a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They have designated ADB as the lead Consultant and development partner. India has recently been invited to join this pipeline project. Given its requirements of natural gas, India has agreed to do so, initially as an `Observer`.